

MINUTES  
**CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL**  
September 22, 1995  
Eureka Inn, Colonnade Room  
518 7th Street, Eureka, California

**Executive Council Members Present**

Doug Wheeler, Resources Agency  
Ed Hastey, Bureau of Land Management  
Ken Jones, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Rich Elliott, Department of Fish and Game  
Michael Fischer, California Coastal Conservancy  
Maria Rea, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Penny Howard, Bureau of Reclamation  
Jerry Harmon, San Diego Association of Governments  
G. Lynn Sprague, US Forest Service  
Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Department of Water Resources  
Jay Collins, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Miatek Kolipinski, National Park Service  
Terry Salmon, University of California  
Anne Kinsinger, National Biological Service  
Bob Haussler, California Energy Commission  
Wayne White, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Chauncey Poston, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Mark Baughman, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Arnold Whitridge, Northern California County Supervisors Association

**CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of Secretary Douglas Wheeler, Ed Hastey called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 16, 1995 MEETING**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**REPORT ON EUREKA LOCAL GROUP FORUM - SEPTEMBER 21, 1995**

Mark Nechodom began his report on the Local Group Forum by expressing his appreciation to the regional managers who attended that meeting and acknowledging Kim Rodrigues, U.C. Cooperative Extension, who moderated a series of presentations by the Trinity Bioregional Group, the Coastal Land Trust,

and the Eelswap Program.

The theme of the forum was watershed restoration and key issues discussed at the meeting related to funding, information sharing, local planning, and agency representation, and public participation. A summary of the local group forum issues and recommendations was distributed and will also be available on-line through the council's home page.

Mr. Nechodom commented that the local group forums is an evolving process which needs continued improvement and additional focus in terms of purpose and format in an effort to make this more useful to both the council and the people who attend them.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE COASTAL SALMON INITIATIVE**

John Amodio, Assistant Secretary for Resources, presented an overview of the Coastal Salmon Initiative, an effort to develop a better way of both protecting the coastal salmon natural system and provide the landowners and local communities some certainty about the economic use of their land. The initiative will result in an assessment of state salmon protection restoration policies.

Mr. Amodio reviewed the framework agreement which commits the involved entities to work cooperatively toward the goal of conserving the biological diversity of the coastal salmon natural system and maintaining a healthy and sustainable economy. The framework agreement has been approved by all the state and federal regulatory and land management entities and is now in its formal signing process. It has also been distributed to local county governments, and the response has been encouraging. A feasibility assessment will be initiated to determine whether a process could work which provides long-term protection of the coastal salmon natural system while providing certainty for landowners and the local communities.

According to Mr. Amodio, the establishment of a science review panel is under consideration. The panel would provide guidelines and recommended approaches on watershed assessments so landowners or watershed associations can focus their resources knowing they would be getting the information that is most relevant to their purpose as well as meeting the needs of the state and federal regulators. He welcomed the council's input regarding the plan of action for the conduct of the assessment. In addition, a policy group will be formulated to guide and oversee the process, and a working group will be formulated to review the management of public and tribal lands and improved coordination with other area landowners.

It was suggested by Kim Rodrigues that the local interest groups be utilized to promote the initiative to the counties and the landowners. Mr. Amodio responded

that this was the intent. Secretary Wheeler joined the meeting at this point and complimented the initiative as a fine example of close federal, state, and local coordination.

## **PRESENTATION ON HUMBOLDT FISH ACTION COUNCIL**

Secretary Wheeler introduced Tom Weseloh who distributed a handout regarding the Humboldt Fish Action Council, the oldest ongoing comprehensive restoration project in California. It is comprised of thousands of volunteers, cooperators and sponsors. Mr. Weseloh presented a verbal picture of the life cycle of the area fish, reviewed the various local methods of raising fish, and emphasized the necessity of having sufficient habitat for the fish. He called the council's attention to ongoing problems with culvert areas and logjam areas located on major tributaries and the solutions which were developed to resolve these problems.

Mr. Weseloh presented slides which showed examples of habitat work on local creeks and waterways and highlighted the efforts of several local people in supporting this program. He reviewed projects currently underway with the Commercial Fishermen's Disaster Relief Fund, AmeriCorps, Watersheds Stewards Program, and various projects which involve the children in local schools.

The program's funding was reviewed by Mr. Weseloh. Sources of support include commercial salmon fishermen, the Salmon Stamp Program, Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, funding sources from Proposition 70 and SB 400, local fishing clubs, and private donations, as well as the previously-mentioned supporters.

Mr. Weseloh requested the council's assistance in identifying additional funding sources for education and monitoring and project evaluation. He emphasized the idea that coho restoration can be successful and involves time, money, dedication and a comprehensive approach that includes habitat improvement, education, monitoring, evaluation and artificial propagation, if necessary.

Mr. Hastey asked Mr. Weseloh about his thoughts on the Coastal Salmon Initiative. Mr. Weseloh responded that private sector and nonprofits can contribute greatly if unhindered by county, state, and federal bureaucracies, but can accomplish even more when working in concert with these agencies. The Coastal Salmon Initiative was seen as a positive effort if conducted as described by Mr. Amodio.

## **PRESENTATION ON ADOPT-A-WATERSHED PROGRAM**

Kim Stokely, founder and director of the Adopt-A-Watershed program presented an overview of the program. She explained that Adopt-A-Watershed is a universal program where kindergarten students adopt a watershed and follow it as a focal point of their science curriculum through the twelfth grade and on into the community colleges. The program is a model for community/school interaction.

Ms. Stokely described the goals for Adopt-A-Watershed as follows:

1. Articulate science education and make it comprehensive so that it builds conceptually upon itself.
2. Apply science education and make it directly applicable, relevant and significant.
3. Develop a sense of stewardship in the children. Students receive information and graduate as informed citizens.
4. Talk to the public and community about what is being learned. Increase the knowledge base of the community about watersheds.
5. Model collaboration through participation by resource professionals from the local communities.
6. Develop an ethics of service.
7. Getting things done. Children actually do the monitoring, restoration and contribute to the watersheds.

Ms. Stokely reviewed the program model and the interaction between the schools, the community and the natural resource community. She acknowledged the contributions of several partners, the California Conservation Corps, Department of Fish and Game, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and AmeriCorps.

This program has been presented to the Environmental Education Advisory Committee. One-third of the projects funded through the Environmental Education Grant Programs last year were for Adopt-A-Watershed programs in individual communities.

The council was presented with suggestions for ways of assisting this program. They included collaborate on education, provide staff time, provide coordinators, provide support in the form of clerical services, provide input to curriculum review.

## **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Job In The Woods**

Lynn Sprague, U.S. Forest Service, directed the Council's attention to an element of the President's Northwest Forest Plan, Jobs in the Woods. This is the economic adjustment initiative which was created in response to people working locally to improve their conditions in communities and the resources. The program is currently operating in three northern counties and has 50 participants receiving classroom and on-the-job training while receiving wages for field work. An intensive audit of the first part of the program has recently been completed and the program is being expanded to several other northern California counties.

### **Timber Salvage**

Lynn Sprague also reviewed for the Council the reversion bill passed this summer by Congress and signed by President Clinton. This bill has a provision for salvage sales on national forest system lands and the BLM's public domain lands. The U.S. Forest Service will approach the development of salvage sales by examining the condition of the forest and identifying whether a salvage operation will improve forest health and reduce fire risk.

### **Watershed Academy**

Rich Elliott, Regional Manager with Department of Fish and Game's Northern California/North Coast Region, announced the department's Watershed Academy which is geared toward training the private industry and resource professionals. Last month's session was held at Humboldt State University and had 65 attendees. The academy's purpose is to foster a dialogue with agency professionals and private industry resource professionals as to beneficial watershed activities for primarily anadromous fish stocks.

### **King Range National Conservation Area**

Ed Hastey, Bureau of Land Management, announced the King Range National Conservation Area anniversary celebration, scheduled for October 21, 1995 in Shelter Cove. Legislation was passed in 1970 which established the King Range. The King Range was originally 25,000 acres of public land and through exchanges primarily in Humboldt and Mendocino counties is now approximately 55,000 acres.

### **Klamath Education Project**

Terry Salmon, University of California, reported on the Klamath Education Project, which has funded 14 cooperative projects between local county cooperative extension offices and local groups. A competitive grants process was used to select projects. He directed the council's attention to a listing of the projects and their progress reports. It was noted that two of the activities presented at the local group forum are being funded by this project.

### **Habitat Conservation Plans**

Wayne White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, informed the council about two workshops which were conducted in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Resources Agency to obtain input from users of the facilitation or regulatory processes under the Endangered Species Act for Habitat Conservation Plans. When the comments from these workshops are finalized, they will be available to the council for review.

Mr. White reviewed for the council the development of an outreach program to communicate an organizational change that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is undergoing, from a programmatic division within the Service to a geographic or ecosystem approach. He distributed a handout which reviewed the ecosystem approach based on nine common principles. The intent of the plan is to show the strategies for the ecoregions and how they fit into the larger eco-planning efforts. He asked the executive committee for an in-depth review.

Secretary Wheeler underscored the significance of the actions, not only in terms of its organizational implications for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but because of the service's efforts to align its activities with those of other resource agencies in the state.

### **Desert Lands Rehabilitation Workshop**

Ken Jones, Department of Parks and Recreation, distributed a brochure regarding the Desert Lands Rehabilitation Workshop which is being sponsored by Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Department of Defense. This is a coordinated effort among the agencies and others that have been working towards carrying out the Desert Protection Act and all of the congressional changes that have provided several new guidelines.

### **California Rivers Assessment Program**

Miatek Kolipinski, National Park Service, reviewed the California Rivers Assessment Program. This is a cooperative program to establish a data base and geographic information system available through Internet which will support informed decisions in conservation and management of California's valuable

rivers and streams. This program was started by California Resources Agency in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, U.C. Davis and over 30 other agencies and organizations. It integrates river-related data from a variety of individuals and organizations with the first emphasis of the program on collecting and evaluating riparian and aquatic habitat information.

Secretary Wheeler stated the Resource Agency has given very high priority to this project which is now in its second phase.

### **Annual Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) Conference**

Mark Baughman, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, reminded the council of the annual CRMP Conference to be held in Lake Tahoe on October 18 and 19, 1995. This conference will focus on watershed and fire management using the CRMP process.

### **California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**

Chauncey Poston, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, announced a change in location for their offices. They will now be located in the Resources Building in Sacramento.

### **Annual Conference of California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**

The annual conference of California Association of Resource Conservation Districts will be held in Sacramento at the Hyatt beginning November 6, 1995.

### **Coastal Conservancy**

Michael Fischer, California Coastal Conservancy, distributed a listing of partnerships developed in the Klamath ecoregion by the Coastal Conservancy staff. He welcomed the council's additional participation.

### **Multispecies Conservation Planning Effort Maps**

Ed Hastey, Bureau of Land Management reminded the council members to continue to furnish new information and forward updates of conservation planning activities in California. The current listing of projects was provided in council packets. The corresponding map has been revised to highlight multispecies conservation planning efforts and is available from Janine Stenback, CDF.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Jay Collin, Natural Resources Conservation Service, announced their recent reorganization. The reorganization was mostly in the management level and the goal of the process was to maintain the local delivery system.

Mr. Collin announced the Salmon Restoration Program is underway. \$2.2 million has been passed from the Department of Commerce to the Natural Resources Conservation Service and down through the Humboldt Resource Conservation District for restoration projects in the North Coast area.

The council was informed of the quarterly meeting of the California Resource Conservation and Development Council which was held on June 15. As a result of that meeting, they are offering their services to the Biodiversity Council for any efforts on behalf of any delivery system that is needed at the local level.

### **7th American Forestry Congress**

Jon Kennedy, US Forest Service, announced the Seventh American Forestry Congress to be held in Washington, D.C., from February 21 to 24, 1996. The First Congress was held in 1882 and the most recent one in 1976. This Seventh Congress was scheduled as a result of the indication of a need to examine forest policy nationwide. Leading up to this congress, a series of local workshops will be held around the state to provide opportunity for local public participation.

### **Biodiversity Newsletter**

Secretary Wheeler reminded the members of the importance of the newsletter. He thanked Chris Chrystal for her hard work and asked members to contact Ms. Chrystal with the names of people who ought to be added to the mailing list, as well as providing information regarding events or projects which would be of interest to newsletter recipients.

### **Conference on Riparian and River Ecosystems**

Secretary Wheeler announced the Conference on Riparian and River Ecosystems will be held November 14 through 16, 1995. Information can be obtained through U.C. Davis Extension.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

John Amodio reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Biodiversity Council. The executive committee was organized as a means of continuing the work of the Council in an orderly fashion and providing a forum for developing the meetings and strategies to be pursued by the Council.



One of the committee's tasks was to develop a strategic plan for 1996-97. A full, formal presentation on this plan will be presented at the next quarterly meeting, including allocation of the limited available resources. To date, the 21 goals identified from the Agreement have been reduced to the six highest priorities.

The council was presented with information regarding staff allocations to on-going council-related activities. The council was asked to encourage less active members to consider ways in which they might delegate some staff time to program efforts.

### **Council Operating Budget**

John Amodio distributed copies of the status of contributions to the council's annual budget. Each signatory agency was requested to contribute \$3,250 for the operation of the council over the course of the year.

Mr. Amodio reminded the members that California Biodiversity Council information packets are available to council members who may need additional copies. Also, a new display has been developed regarding the California Biodiversity Council. Anyone interested in utilizing this display should contact Joanne Cemo, CDF.

### **Update on Regional Managers Forums**

Mark Nechodom presented a brief update on the Regional Managers Workshops. The first workshop is scheduled in Redding on October 4, with an introductory dinner and discussion to be held on October 3. He directed the council's attention to the letter of invitation letter and draft agenda. Mr. Nechodom emphasized that these workshops will be referred to as Regional Managers Forums because they are seen as an opportunity for managers at the regional level to get together and discuss issues that are critical to the region. The focus in Redding will be on five different substantive issues: coho initiative, fuels management, Jobs In The Woods, Deer and Mill Creek Conservancies and their activities with private land, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent reorganization into ecoregions.

The decision to schedule the second meeting in Barstow will be deferred until December 6, after the desert managers' regular meeting. It is likely a forum will be scheduled for that area sometime in early 1996.

At this time, each of the council members introduced their regional staff members who were in attendance at this meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Joseph Riker**, Chairman of the California Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas and Chairman of Oregon-California Resource Conservation and Development Areas, addressed the CBC in reference to resource conservation and development councils. The councils are locally directed, community self-help organizations, often nonprofit, who provide local actions to carry out resource conservation, land use management, and economic development to communities. These are essentially local people working together to solve problems, evaluate and plan resource improvements and encourage community stability. He presented the council with copies of their most recent report which reviewed ways to match, utilize and distribute federal and state funds and private interest funds for projects.

**Andy Collona**, Energy Resource Advocates, expressed his appreciation for the Council's availability in discussing problems which are of concern to people who are dependent on the area's commercial resources and natural resource base for their livelihoods. He distributed information from Energy Resource Advocate's study which was conducted to determine the feasibility of using satellite imagery to support the restoration program established by the Klamath Act of 1986.

**Tim McKay**, North Coast Environmental Center, directed the council's attention to a problem in the Mattole Watershed and suggested it might be a good collaborative project for the Council or the Natural Salmon Habitat Protection Program. The problem is with Road 435 that runs for about four miles along the Mattole River. Secretary Wheeler indicated the individual council members will investigate this further and attempt to identify a potential solution. He also thanked Mr. McKay for the invitation to participate in the 11th Annual Adopt-A-Beach cleanup program.

**Debbie Hudsmith**, Planet Drum Foundation, announced the availability of a bioregional directory that includes 220 groups around North America. There are 370 groups in the San Francisco Bay Area that are involved in watershed projects. The Foundation also cosponsors an annual bioregional gathering in northern California. She encouraged the council to contact them if the council would like to be included on the Foundation's mailing list and strongly encouraged the involvement between the council and nonprofit groups. The Foundation is a nonprofit ecological education group that was founded in 1973 to provide an effective grassroots approach to ecology that emphasizes sustainability, community self-determination, and regional self-reliance.

## **SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in Barstow on December 7 and 8, 1995.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.